



**Phillips Extends Condolences to the Families to Students Killed In the Motor Vehicle Accident In May Pen**

**Kingston, Jamaica. December 2, 2024:** Shadow Minister of Transport, Mikael Phillips, MP, has expressed profound sorrow following the tragic death of two students in a motor vehicle accident in May Pen earlier today. Preliminary reports suggest the driver was attempting to evade Transport Authority inspectors when the crash occurred. Mr. Phillips extended heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families during this time of immense grief.

In a statement, Mr. Phillips described the accident as a national tragedy. The victims, a boy and girl from Lenon High School in Mocho, Clarendon, lost their lives, while two others remain critically injured in hospital. "This devastating incident has shocked the nation and plunged families into mourning," he said.

Mr. Phillips confirmed that he has reached out to the Transport Authority to verify reports of a chase preceding the accident. "While confirmation is pending, it is critical to emphasize the dangers posed by high-speed pursuits, especially when passengers are involved," he cautioned.

Referring to recent amendments to the Transport Authority's vehicle seizure policies, Mr. Phillips called for a review of enforcement practices to prioritize the safety of all road users. Simultaneously, he urged transport operators, particularly taxi drivers, to comply with the authorities during enforcement efforts, underscoring the importance of adhering to the law.

"Today is a somber reminder of the shared responsibility we all bear to ensure road safety," Mr. Phillips added. He urged road users to strictly follow the Road Traffic Act and its regulations, particularly during the busy Christmas season when road usage peaks.

The Shadow Minister also highlighted the urgent need to address Jamaica's student transportation crisis. "We cannot continue to witness these recurring tragedies involving students. A comprehensive, lasting solution is overdue to safeguard our children, especially in rural areas where the risks are greater," he stated.

Mr. Phillips reaffirmed his commitment to advocating for stronger measures to protect students and other vulnerable road users, emphasizing that lives must take precedence over all else.

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